

6 (PPTS)

10/512017

2002P02691WO

DT01 Rec'd PCT/PTC 19 OCT 2004

Description

Semiconductor component with integrated capacitance structure, and method for fabrication thereof

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The present invention relates to a semiconductor component with a semiconductor substrate on which an insulating layer is formed, the insulating layer having a capacitance structure formed in it. The invention 10 also relates to a method for fabrication thereof.

Most analog circuit parts of hybrid digital/analog circuits require capacitors having a high capacitance value, a high level of linearity and high quality. In 15 order to keep the costs for fabricating the component as low as possible, it is necessary for the fabrication of the capacitance structures to require as few process steps as possible. In addition, the progressive miniaturization of the components and integrated 20 circuits also entails the demand for as little area requirement as possible for the capacitance structure. A capacitance structure which is known in the prior art is known from patent specification DE 198 50 915 C1. A structure which is in the form of a "sandwich 25 capacitance" has two conductive foils which have been applied to a semiconductor substrate and are isolated from one another by a dielectric layer. The top foil resting on the dielectric layer is connected to at least one of two connecting conductors for the 30 capacitance via at least one conductive air bridge. Parasitic inductances in the capacitance are largely compensated for by virtue of the two connecting conductors being connected to one another by at least one highly resistive line which bridges the 35 capacitance.

Patent specification US 5,583,359 has disclosed a capacitance structure for an integrated circuit. In this case, a plurality of metal plates which form

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the electrodes of a stack capacitor are arranged above one another, isolated by dielectric layers. Each plane of a metal plate contains a metal line which is insulated from the respective plate. Contact with the 5 metal lines is respectively made from both sides using via connections, as a result of which firstly all plates in odd-numbered positions and secondly all plates in even-numbered positions in the stack are electrically connected to one another. As a result of 10 the plates in even-numbered positions being connected to a first connecting line and the plates in odd-numbered positions being connected to a second connecting line, adjacent plates are at different potentials and form respective pairs of electrodes in a 15 plate capacitor. The capacitance surface is thus formed by the plate surfaces. One alternative embodiment of the electrodes is provided by virtue of the plates being in the form of strip-like lines which are arranged parallel to one another.

20 A similar embodiment of a capacitance structure is known from patent specification US 5,208,725. A plurality of first lines in strip form are arranged parallel to one another on a semiconductor substrate. A 25 plurality of second lines are arranged congruently on these first lines, isolated by a dielectric layer. As a result of vertically and laterally adjacent lines being at different potentials, both capacitances between lines situated above one another and capacitances between adjacent lines are produced in one plane.

30 A further capacitance structure is known from Aparicio, R. and Hajimiri, A.: Capacity Limits and Matching Properties of Lateral Flux Integrated Capacitors; IEEE 35 Custom Integrated Circuits Conference, San Diego, May 6-9, 2001. Vertically arranged bar structures are arranged symmetrically with respect to one another. Each of the bars is constructed

from metal regions and via regions, which are arranged alternately on one another. The spots of metal on a bar are at a common potential. Spots of metal on adjacent bars are at different potentials. The via regions 5 respectively make contact with two adjacent metal regions on a bar. The capacitance density is limited by the minimum size of the metal regions in the bars. The size of these metal regions is much larger than the size of the via regions in the bars, however, which is down to the fact that the demands placed on masks for 10 fabricating the metal regions are different than those on masks used to fabricate the via regions. On account of the necessary minimum size of the metal regions, the bars likewise have a minimum size, which limits the 15 capacitance density in this capacitance structure for the miniaturization of the components and the reduction in the space requirement for the capacitance structure.

A drawback of capacitance structures processed 20 specifically for one semiconductor component - as is often the case in processes today - is their complex fabrication. Particularly when such a capacitance structure is in the form of a plate capacitor comprising two additional metallization strata which have no further use in the component or in the circuit, 25 fabrication is more difficult and more cost-intensive. In addition, particularly the sandwich capacitance structures have the drawback that they make only very inefficient use of the surface area which they take up on the chip and, measured against the required surface 30 area, provide a relatively low capacitance value for the useful capacitance and, in connection with this, have a relatively large parasitic capacitance component on the semiconductor substrate. This relatively large 35 parasitic capacitance component means that the useful capacitance of the sandwich capacitances can be increased only to a limited extent.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a semiconductor component having an integrated capacitance structure and a method for fabrication thereof, which semiconductor component is easy to 5 produce, and which method can be used to improve the ratio of useful capacitance to parasitic capacitance.

This object is achieved by a semiconductor component which has the features of patent claim 1 and by a 10 method which has the steps as claimed in patent claim 17.

A semiconductor component has a semiconductor substrate on which a layer system comprising one or more 15 insulating layers is arranged. This insulating layer or this insulating layer system has a capacitance structure formed in it. A first part of a capacitance surface on the capacitance structure is formed by parts of the surfaces of at least two metallization planes. 20 The metallization planes are arranged parallel to one another and parallel to the semiconductor substrate and are electrically connected to a respective connecting line.

25 A fundamental concept of the invention is that the capacitance structure has at least one electrically conductive region which is arranged between the metallization planes and is formed in the insulating layer system. Besides the first capacitance surface 30 region, the capacitance structure therefore has a second capacitance surface region which enlarges the overall capacitance surface. This electrically conductive region is electrically connected only to one of the metallization planes.

As a result, a capacitance structure can be formed which is relatively easy to fabricate and furthermore improves the ratio of useful capacitance in the capacitance structure to parasitic capacitance. A 5 further advantage is provided by virtue of the arrangement of the electrically conductive region virtually not increasing the horizontal surface area requirement of the overall capacitance structure, and hence the ratio of useful capacitance to required chip 10 area also being significantly improved.

In one advantageous configuration of the invention, the electrically conductive region is in the form of a homogeneous, cohesive elevation. It is particularly 15 advantageous if the electrically conductive regions have no such metal areas produced by patterning the metallization planes. As a result, the electrical regions are formed without intermediate metallization 20 regions - which are produced from the patterning of the metallization planes. Particularly a homogeneous via structure is distinguished as being particularly advantageous. This structure of the vias allows, particularly in comparison with the known capacitance 25 structure in Aparicio, R. and Hajimiri, A.: Capacity Limits and Matching Properties of Lateral Flux Integrated Capacitors; IEEE Custom Integrated Circuits Conference, San Diego, May 6-9, 2001, the production of a much smaller structure than the stacked structure disclosed therein comprising intermediate metallization 30 and via regions. Particularly in a "Dual-Damascene" process, homogeneous vias can be formed in one process step, as a result of which these structures can be lined up at high density and the capacitance surface of the electrodes can be significantly enlarged for a 35 virtually constant horizontal surface area requirement. In this case, Dual-Damascene does not involve a plurality of vias (situated above one another) being

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produced simultaneously, but rather one via metal stratum simultaneously in each case. In modern Dual-Damascene processes, hole or trench structures for the vias and

metal tracks which are to be produced are etched in succession and are subsequently filled simultaneously with a metal, for example copper. The patterning, particularly in the dielectric layer of a capacitance structure, in order to produce the vias, which pass completely through the dielectric layer, can be produced using a lithographic step (via lithography). A subsequent via etching step is used to etch the desired via structure into the dielectric layer. In comparison with processes in which the vias passing through the dielectric layer are produced by means of via and metal mask etching (which is used to produce trench regions for metal tracks), this firstly allows a higher level of accuracy for the capacitance to be achieved, since inaccuracies in the alignment of metal masks do not affect the formation of the capacitance in this case. Furthermore, metal masks which are designed for linear shapes do not allow point structures to be produced simultaneously. This is the case because masks which are designed to produce point structures require, on account of the two-dimensional diffraction effects, a much higher exposure intensity for the hole planes in order to form a corresponding structure, which means that hole masks have a firmly prescribed hole size. To produce the point structures, additional inclusion of metal linear holes (slots) would mean that minimum distances for producing the capacitance can be used advantageously only in one dimension. As advantageously explained in the invention, by avoiding the formation of slots it is possible to produce exclusively vias which have minimum distances in both dimensions and which can be used for alternating capacitor surface areas.

It is also advantageous for the electrically conductive region to be arranged essentially at right angles to the metallization planes. This allows the surface

of the electrically conductive region to be designed to be as large as possible, and therefore allows the greatest possible contribution to the useful capacitance to be achieved.

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In one preferred exemplary embodiment, the two metallization planes are each in the form of homogeneous plates. Each of the two plates is electrically connected to at least one electrically 10 conductive region. Provision may be made for the electrically conductive regions to be in bar form. Provision may also be made for a plurality of first regions which are in bar form to be arranged on the first metallization plane, said regions extending in 15 the direction of the second metallization plane. The bars are arranged at an essentially fixed distance from one another on the first metallization plane. A plurality of second regions which are in bar form are likewise arranged at an essentially fixed distance from 20 one another on the second metallization plane. Advantageously, these second electrically conductive regions which are in bar form extend between the first bar-like regions in the direction of the first metallization plane. The electrically conductive 25 regions of the two metallization planes are thus arranged offset from one another, which means that, viewed in the vertical direction, a first electrically conductive, bar-like region is always opposite the surface of the second metallization plane, and a second 30 electrically conductive, bar-like region is always opposite the surface of the second metallization plane.

It is particularly advantageous to design the first bar-like regions to have a first length L_1 and to 35 design the second bar-like regions to have a length L_2 , the sum of the lengths L_1 and L_2 being greater than the distance between the two metallization planes. As a result, the first and second bar-like regions are more or less interlocked. This means that

regions of the side faces of the first bar-like regions and regions of the side face of the second bar-like regions are opposite one another, as a result of which an additional share for the total capacitance surface 5 is produced and the useful capacitance can be increased.

In a further advantageous exemplary embodiment, the capacitance structure has two metallization planes 10 which both comprise a plurality of lines arranged parallel to one another. The lines which form the first metallization plane are arranged congruently with respect to the lines which form the second metallization plane. Provision may be made for an 15 electrically conductive region to be arranged on each of the lines. It is advantageous for the electrically conductive regions to be in bar form and to be arranged on the lines such that they respectively extend in the direction of the congruently opposing line in the other 20 metallization plane. It is preferable for a plurality of electrically conductive regions which are in bar form to be arranged on each of the first lines at the respective essentially fixed distance from one another. On the second lines, a respective plurality of regions 25 which are in bar form are likewise arranged at an essentially fixed distance from one another. In this case, too, the bar-like regions of the second lines are arranged such that they extend between the bar-like regions of the first lines in the direction of the 30 first lines. Similarly, a more or less interlocking structure for the first and second bar-like regions of the first and second lines can be achieved in this embodiment, too, if the length ratios L_1 and L_2 are chosen in line with the first embodiment explained 35 above. This allows the same advantages to be attained.

A further preferred embodiment is characterized by two metallization planes the first of which is

in the form of a homogeneous plate and the second of which is in the form of a lattice-like structure. At least one electrically conductive region which is in bar form is mounted on the first metallization plane, 5 which is in the form of a homogeneous plate, such that it extends in the direction of the lattice plane. It is particularly advantageous if the bar-like region extends at least partially into one of the cutouts in the lattice structure of the second metallization 10 plane. This allows the capacitance surface to be increased and allows the share of the useful capacitance to be enlarged.

15 In a further exemplary embodiment, in addition to the two metallization planes of the preceding embodiment a third metallization plane is provided which is likewise in the form of a lattice and is arranged parallel to and at a distance from the first lattice plane on said first lattice plane. The two lattice planes are in 20 contact with one another by means of electrical connections. The at least one bar-like electrically conductive region is in a form such that it projects through a cutout in the first lattice plane and extends at least partially into a cutout in the second lattice 25 plane or in the third metallization plane. This allows a further enlargement of the capacitance surface and of the useful capacitance to be achieved. The surface area requirement of the capacitance structure can be kept almost the same in this case.

30 A further aspect of the invention considers a method for fabricating a semiconductor component with an integrated capacitance structure. The capacitance structure is formed in an insulating layer, the 35 insulating layer being deposited on a semiconductor substrate. A fundamental concept is that at least two metallization planes which the capacitance structure has have an electrically conductive region formed between them in the insulating layer, said electrically

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conductive region being connected only to one of the two metallization planes.

It is advantageous that the electrically conductive region is in the form of a homogeneous cohesive elevation, the electrically conductive region being formed without such a metal area which can be produced
5 by patterning a metallization plane.

With particular preference, the electrically conductive region is in the form of a via structure.

10 The electrically conductive region or the electrically conductive regions can be produced as via structures by virtue of an etching step being used to etch the holes into the insulating layer which are used to produce the
15 vias by subsequently filling them with a conductive material, for example copper or tungsten. Producing the holes without a combination of such an etching step and an etching step for producing metal tracks - whose regions are defined beforehand by metal masks - allows
20 a high capacitance density for the capacitance structure to be achieved.

Advantageous configurations are specified in the subclaims.

25 A plurality of exemplary embodiments of the invention are explained in more detail with reference to the schematic drawings below, in which:

30 figure 1 shows a perspective illustration of a first exemplary embodiment of a semiconductor component based on the invention;

figure 2 shows a first sectional illustration of the exemplary embodiment shown in figure 1;

35 figure 3 shows a second sectional illustration of the exemplary embodiment shown in figure 1;

figure 4 shows a third sectional illustration of the exemplary embodiment shown in figure 1;

5 figure 5 shows a perspective illustration of a second exemplary embodiment of the inventive semiconductor component;

figure 6 shows a first sectional illustration of the second exemplary embodiment shown in figure 5;

10 figure 7 shows a second sectional illustration of the second exemplary embodiment shown in figure 5;

figure 8 shows a third sectional illustration of the second exemplary embodiment shown in figure 5;

15 figure 9 shows a fourth sectional illustration of the second exemplary embodiment shown in figure 5;

figure 10 shows a perspective illustration of a third exemplary embodiment of the inventive semiconductor component;

20 figure 11 shows a first sectional illustration of the third exemplary embodiment shown in figure 10;

figure 12 shows a second sectional illustration of the third exemplary embodiment shown in figure 10;

25 figure 13 shows a perspective illustration of a fourth exemplary embodiment of the inventive semiconductor component; and

30 figure 14 shows a sectional illustration of the fourth exemplary embodiment shown in figure 13.

In a first exemplary embodiment, a semiconductor component based on the invention (figure 1) has a semiconductor substrate (not shown) on which an insulating layer (not shown) has been applied. The insulating layer may also comprise a plurality of

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layers. This insulating layer has a capacitance structure K integrated in it. The capacitance structure K has a first metallization plane 1, which is in the form of a homogeneous plate in the exemplary embodiment. Formed parallel to this is a second metallization plane 2, which is likewise in the form of a homogeneous, cohesive plate. The

first metallization plane 1 is connected to a first connecting line (not shown) and the second metallization plane is connected to a second connecting line (not shown), as a result of which the two 5 metallization planes 1 and 2 are at different electrical potentials and form electrodes. On the first plate 1, a plurality of electrically conductive regions 1a to 1j, which are in bar form, are arranged at right angles to the plate 1. The bar-like regions 1a to 1j are electrically connected directly to the plate 1 and are in the form of homogeneous, cohesive vias with a uniform length L_1 . The bars 1a to 1j are oriented in the direction of the second metallization plane 2 and are not electrically connected thereto.

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In the z direction, the bars 1a and 1b, the bars 1c, 1d and 1e, the bars 1f and 1g and the bars 1h, 1i and 1j are respectively arranged at a distance a from one another. In addition, the bars 1a, 1b, 1f and 1g are 20 respectively shifted by $a/2$ in the z direction with respect to the bars 1c, 1d, 1e, 1h, 1i and 1j, so that in the x direction the bars 1f and 1h, the bars 1a and 1f, the bars 1d and 1i, the bars 1b and 1g and the bars 1e and 1j are respectively situated on one line.

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Similarly, the plate 2 has second electrically conductive regions 2a to 2j formed on it as homogeneous bars which all have a length L_2 . The bars 2a to 2j are 30 similarly arranged at the distance a on the plate 2, but are positioned on the plate 2 such that they extend between the bars 1a to 1j in the direction of the first metallization plane 1. Thus, by way of example, the bars 2a, 2b and 2c are situated at the same x position as the bars 1a and 1b, but are offset from one another 35 in the z direction. The same applies to the other bars 1c to 1j and 2d to 2j.

5 The lengths L_1 and L_2 of the bars 1a to 2j are chosen such that they are shorter than the distance b between the two metallization planes 1 and 2, but the sum of L_1 and L_2 is greater than the distance b between the
10 metallization planes 1 and 2. The effect achieved by this is that side face regions of adjacent bars, for example of 1a and 2a, are opposite one another and the different electrical potentials which these adjacent bars have creates a capacitance surface whose capacitance contributes a share to the useful capacitance.

15 Provision may also be made for the bars 1a to 1j and the bars 2a to 2j to have different lengths. What is fundamental, however, is that the sums of the lengths of adjacent bars on the first and second metallization planes are respectively greater than the distance b between the metallization planes. This ensures that surface regions of the side faces of the bars 1a to 1j
20 on the first metallization plane 1 and surface regions of the side face of the respectively adjacent bars 2a to 2j on the second metallization plane 2 are always opposite one another and this creates a capacitance surface which makes a contribution to the useful capacitance. In the
25 exemplary embodiment, the plate 2 with the bars 1a to 1j, which is further from the semiconductor substrate, has a minimum parasitic capacitance with respect to the semiconductor substrate.

30 Figure 2 shows a cross section along the line BB from figure 1. The plates 1 and 2 have the bars 1f and 1g and 2f to 2h, respectively, which are each at the distance a from one another. In the cross sectional illustration, it is possible to see the more or less
35 interlocking structure of the bars 1f and 1g and bars 2f to 2h which are offset from one another. First capacitance components C_1 as a contribution to the total useful capacitance of the capacitance

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structure K (figure 1) are respectively produced between the homogeneous bars 1f, 1g and 2f to 2h, which are

in the form of via structures. Second capacitance components C_2 as a contribution to the total useful capacitance are produced between the bars 1f and 1g and the plate 1 and also between the bars 2f to 2h and the plate 2. A further capacitance component C_3 as a contribution to the useful capacitance is produced by the plate 1 and the plate 2.

Figure 3 shows a cross sectional illustration of the capacitance structure K from figure 1 along the line AA. The contributions of the capacitance components C_1 , C_2 and C_3 are produced in line with the statements relating to figure 2.

A further sectional illustration along the sectional line CC in figure 1 is shown in figure 4. In this illustration, the symmetrical arrangement of the bars 1a to 1j and of the bars 2a to 2j on the plates 1 and 2 can be seen. Each bar 1a to 1j is adjacent to at least two bars 2a to 2j (similarly each bar 2a to 2j is adjacent to at least two bars 1a to 1j), as a result of which the capacitance components C_1 (not shown here) are respectively produced.

A further exemplary embodiment is shown in figure 5. As in the first exemplary embodiment, the capacitance structure K is formed in an insulating layer (not shown) or in an insulating layer system comprising a plurality of layers, the insulating layer being arranged on a semiconductor substrate (not shown). The metallization planes 3 and 4 are each formed from a plurality of lines 31 to 36 and 41 to 46 arranged parallel to one another, the lines 31 to 36 each being arranged congruently with respect to the lines 41 to 46. The lines 31, 33, 35, 42, 44 and 46 are electrically connected to a first connecting line (not

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shown), as a result of which these lines are connected to a first potential. The lines 32, 34, 36, 41, 43 and 45 are electrically connected to a second connecting line (not shown),

as a result of which these lines are connected to a second potential. On each of the lines 31 to 36 and 41 to 46, a respective homogeneous, electrically conductive region 31a to 36a and 41a to 46a which is in 5 bar form is arranged and is connected directly to the respective line. The bars 31a to 36a are oriented vertically in the direction of the lines 41 to 46. Similarly, the bars 41a to 46a are oriented vertically in the direction of the lines 31 to 36.

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The illustration of the bars 31a to 36a and 41a to 46a is exemplary and can be extended in many respects. By way of example, each line 31 to 46 may have a respective plurality of further bars which are 15 arranged, by way of example, at a fixed distance from one another on each line 31 to 46. The bars 31a to 36a are arranged at a fixed first position in the z direction and the bars 41a to 46a are arranged at a fixed second position in the z direction, as a result 20 of which the bars 31a to 36a are arranged offset from the bars 41a to 46a in the z direction. The lengths of the bars 31a to 36a may be uniform or else may be different. Similarly, the bars 41a to 46a may be 25 designed to be of uniform length or to be of different lengths. For this exemplary embodiment, too, it is fundamental that the sum of the length of a bar 31a to 36a plus the length of a bar 41a to 46a is greater than the distance d between the respective lines in the metallization planes 3 and 4. Depending on the 30 potential to which the lines 31 to 46 are connected, the lines 31, 33, 35, 42, 44 and 46, for example, with the associated bars 31a, 33a, 35a, 42a, 44a and 46a have a minimum parasitic capacitance with respect to the semiconductor substrate, which is arranged below 35 the metallization plane 3. The potentials may also be chosen such that the lines 32, 34, 36, 41, 43 and 45

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with the associated bars 32a to 45a have a minimum parasitic capacitance with respect to the semiconductor substrate.

Figure 6 shows a cross sectional illustration of the second exemplary embodiment of the capacitance structure shown in figure 5 along the sectional line EE. As already explained with reference to figure 5, adjacent lines in the metallization planes 3 and 4 are at different potentials. As a result, adjacent bars 31a to 36a and 41a to 46a, which are in the form of vias, are also at different potentials, which means that four capacitance components are produced as contributions to the total useful capacitance of the capacitance structure. First capacitance components C_1 are produced by the opposing surfaces of the side regions between the bars 31a to 36a. Similarly, these components C_1 are produced by the opposing surfaces of the side regions between the bars 41a to 46a, as shown in figure 7, which show a sectional illustration of the capacitance structure shown in figure 5 along the sectional line DD. Second capacitance components C_2 are formed between the opposing face regions of the bars 31a to 36a and the face regions of the lines 41 to 46 (figure 6). Equally, these components C_2 are also formed by the opposing face regions of the bars 41a to 46a and the face regions of the lines 31 to 36 (figure 7). Third capacitance components C_3 are respectively formed by the face regions of the lines 31 to 36 and 41 to 46, which face regions are adjacent in a metallization plane 3 and 4 (figures 6 and 7).

As figure 8 shows with reference to a sectional illustration of the capacitance structure K shown in figure 5 along the sectional line GG, fourth capacitance components C_4 are formed by the opposing face regions of the bars 31a to 36a on the first metallization plane 3 in relation to the bars 41a to 46a on the second metallization plane 4, for example of the bars 36a and 46a (figure 8).

Figure 9 shows a sectional illustration along the sectional line FF shown in figure 5. The symmetrical arrangement of the bars 31a to 46a can be seen. As figure 9 indicates, the number of bars can be extended 5 in both directions, and hence also the number of lines 31 to 46 (figures 5 to 8) is not limited to the number illustrated in the exemplary embodiment.

A further exemplary embodiment is shown in a 10 perspective view in figure 10. The capacitance structure K has a first metallization plane 5, which is in the form of a cohesive, full plate and is formed in an insulating layer or an insulating layer system (not shown). This insulating layer is formed on a 15 semiconductor substrate (not shown). A second metallization plane 6 in the form of a lattice is formed parallel to the first metallization plane 5 at a distance therefrom. The first metallization plane 5 has homogeneous electrically conductive vias 5a to 5f 20 arranged on it which are in bar form and project at least partially into the cutouts in the lattice-like second metallization plane 6.

Figure 11 uses a cross section along the sectional line 25 HH in figure 10 to show which capacitance components C_1 and C_2 are produced and contribute to the useful capacitance of the capacitance structure. First capacitance components C_1 are formed by the opposing face regions of the vias 5a to 5c with the lattice 30 structure of the metallization plane 6. Second capacitance components C_2 are formed between the opposing face regions of the metallization plane 6, which is in lattice form, and the metallization plane 5. The lattice-like metallization plane 6 has a minimum 35 parasitic capacitance with respect to the semiconductor substrate, which is formed below the first metallization plane 5. In this embodiment

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however, it does not matter

which of the two metallization planes 5 or 6 delivers a minimum parasitic capacitance component, but rather what matters is that the sum of the parasitic capacitance components produced by the metallization 5 planes 5 and 6 with respect to the semiconductor substrate is at a minimum. This means that this embodiment can also be in a form such that the lattice-like metallization plane 6 represents the bottom electrode of the capacitance structure, and 10 hence is closer to the semiconductor substrate than the metallization plane 5.

Figure 12 shows a plan view of the capacitance structure K shown in figure 10. The vias 5a to 5j 15 respectively project into one of the cutouts in the metallization plane 6 and are at almost the same distance from the edges of these cutouts. As figure 12 shows, a capacitance component C_1 is respectively formed between each of the four opposing face regions. 20 Provision may also be made for the cutouts in the lattice 6 to be in round or oval form and for the vias 5a to 5f to be produced with a round or oval cross section.

25 An exemplary embodiment which represents a development of the preceding example is shown in figure 13. In addition to the metallization planes 5 and 6, this capacitance structure K has a third metallization plane 7, which is likewise in lattice form and is 30 arranged parallel and congruently with respect to the metallization plane 6. The metallization planes 6 and 7 are connected to one another by electrical connections 61. In this exemplary embodiment, the bar-like electrically conductive regions 5a to 5j project 35 through the cutouts in the lattice-like metallization plane 6 and extend at least partially into the cutouts in the lattice-like metallization plane 7.

In the cross sectional illustration in figure 14, which shows the capacitance structure K shown in figure 13 along the sectional line II, it can be seen which capacitance components C_1 , C_2 and C_3 are delivered as contributions to the useful capacitance of the capacitance structure K. First capacitance components C_1 are formed between the opposing face regions of the bars 5a to 5c and the lattice-like metallization planes 6 and 7. Second capacitance components C_2 are produced between the opposing face regions of the bars 5a to 5c and the electrical connections 61. In addition, third capacitance components C_3 are produced between the opposing face regions of the metallization plane 5 and of the lattice-like metallization plane 6.

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The homogeneous via bars in the exemplary embodiments are formed from the materials used in the known processes, for example tungsten or copper.

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In all of the exemplary embodiments, a capacitance structure K can be fabricated which can be produced with relatively little complexity and which produces a relatively large capacitance surface (which improves the ratio of useful capacitance to parasitic capacitance) given virtually unchanged surface area requirement for the capacitance structure on the chip surface. The capacitance density of the capacitance structure can be increased particularly by the homogeneous - that is to say free from intermediate metallization regions, which are formed by patterning the metallization planes, for example - via bars.

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The invention is not limited to the capacitance structures K illustrated in the exemplary embodiments.

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The capacitance structure K can be produced in a wide variety of ways. First, by way of example, a

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capacitance structure K may have a first metallization plane corresponding to the metallization plane 6 (figures 10 and 13) and a second metallization plane corresponding to the metallization plane 3

(figure 5), on which correspondingly produced electrically conductive regions are arranged. Provision may also be made for a capacitance structure to have two lattice-like metallization planes corresponding to 5 the metallization plane 6 (figures 10 and 13), which are arranged offset from one another such that the crossing points of the lattice structure of one metallization plane are vertically below the cutouts in the second lattice-like metallization plane. Both 10 lattice-like metallization planes have electrically conductive regions which are in bar form, for example, and which are respectively arranged at the crossing points of the lattice structures of the metallization planes and extend into the cutouts in the opposing 15 lattice-like metallization plane.